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DE RUEHBY #0502 1370821  
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P 160821Z MAY 08  
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9574  
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHZG/NATO EU COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY 0100  
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY 0153  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 3051  
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE PRIORITY 5259  
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH PRIORITY 3541  
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY 3453  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0643  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 000502

NOFORN  
SIPDIS

DEPT. FOR EUR/ERA JEFFREY GAIUQUE  
DEPT. ALSO FOR NEA/ELA FOR MATTHEW IRWING AND EAP/ANP

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/15/2018

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [AS](#)

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA CONSIDERS REQUEST TO BUILD ON ARAB  
LEAGUE EFFORTS FOR LEBANON

REF: STATE 52061

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires Grace C. Stettenbauer for reasons 1.4(b) and (d).

¶1. (SBU) Charge and Poloff delivered reftel demarche to Deborah Stokes, First Assistant Secretary, and Andrea Faulkner, Assistant Secretary, South and West Asia, Middle East and Africa Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Stokes advised that the GOA would look closely at the reftel points and advise after further consultation within the government.

¶2. (C/NF) Stokes indicated that the GOA has been alarmed by recent events in Lebanon. Stokes and Faulkner shared that the GOA has been reviewing its terrorist designation for Hizballah relevant to Australian consular affairs in Lebanon. Given Hizballah's recent gains in "territory", the points and degree of contact with Hizballah, as well as the desirability of such contact, are being reconsidered. The GOA estimates there are 25,000 Australians in Lebanon. There was also an initial reaction that the U.S. description of Australia's designation of only Hizballah's "External Security Organization" as terrorist was perhaps too narrow. Faulkner agreed to check and advise of any differences.

¶3. (C) In anticipation of further questions from the GOA regarding the possible recall of ambassadors from Syria or Iran, we request guidance from the Department on possible parallel or other U.S. action.

STETTENBAUER